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WDM magazine

Issue 35 | Winter/Spring 2015

AN INNOVATIVE LINK TO NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES

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WDM Parks & Recreation

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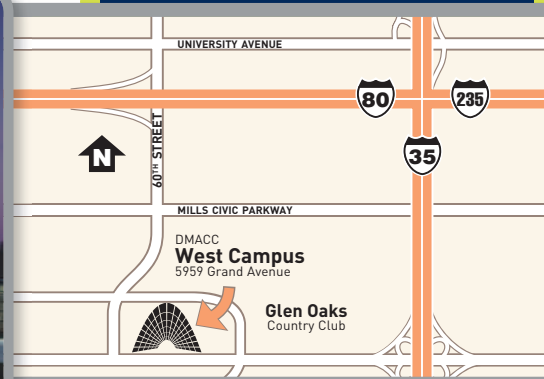
Computers, smartphones, home phones, televisions, DVD players, tablets and digital devices of all descriptions are increasingly connected to a data-driven network. Businesses also rely on information networks, and the current trend toward "cloud computing" will continue to increase the importance of high-performance data networks and professionals to build and operate them.

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THE Mayor's Column

Human Services Department

Happy Holidays! It's hard to imagine that the holidays are nearly upon us, but after a great year, we are ready to celebrate and welcome the season. As the season of giving approaches, I'd be remiss if I didn't take the time to highlight one of our unique departments – the West Des Moines Human Services Department – and the essential work its staff and volunteers do.

Human Services was created 35 years ago and was the first of its kind in Iowa. The department provides assistance and outreach for seniors, people with disabilities and low-income citizens. It strives to "provide opportunities for individuals to improve and enhance their quality of life and sense of community through programs and services available."

The department is staffed by 18 employees (nine full-time) and more than 50 volunteers, many whom do so on a weekly basis. The department's impact is large and positive. The direct assistance it delivers to those in need is funded by grants and donations, both monetary and in-kind, from individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations.

Although West Des Moines is regarded as an affluent community, recent statistics show that about 6 percent of our residents' incomes are at or below the federal poverty guidelines. The Human Services Department works with these struggling families to find places to live, money for rent and utility payments and reliable transportation.

Through the efforts of staff and volunteers, Human Services also helps provides food and clothing to approximately 350 families through donations and our partnership with Des Moines Area Religious Council. Our Housing Solutions Program provides housing and support services to families in six houses in the Valley Junction area. With three buses and a van, more than 1,400 rides per month are provided to the elderly and disabled, helping them make necessary appointments or a meal at the Senior Center.

West Des Moines Human Services administers several programs throughout the year including the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the western suburbs. This federally-funded program offers financial support to qualifying low-income households who need help with paying their heating bill. Additionally, the department hosts a school supply drive for children in low-income homes. This past August, approximately 375 low-income children received donated school supplies. Human Services also partners with the West Des Moines School District to offer a free summer lunch. This past summer, 4,498 such meals were served at Legion Park.

Holiday Assistance is offered through programs including the Food Basket, Adopt-a-Family, and Toyland, all made possible through generous donations from businesses and private individuals in our community.

In October, the Human Services Department will be moving its offices from 318 Fifth Street to a newly renovated building at 139 Sixth Street. The new location is just across the street from the new Polk County Senior Center, which will be convenient for many Human Services clients. The increased space will allow us to provide service more efficiently and perhaps even expand our programs.

The City Council and I are proud of our long-standing commitment to serving the entire community of West Des Moines. As a participant in the annual "Sunday Supper in our Town," I encourage you to also consider how your skills, time or extra efforts can help our community. More information about the West Des Moines Human Services Department can be found at www.wdm.iowa.gov or follow Human Services on Facebook.

Happy Holidays!

Steven K. Gaer

WDM CITY OFFICIALS

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Steven K. Gaer

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First Ward

John Mickelson,
Second Ward

Russ Trimble,
Third Ward

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At Large

Jim Sandager
At Large

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City Attorney
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Upcoming Changes to Pet Licensing

The Cities of West Des Moines, Clive, and Urbandale will be streamlining their animal control and licensing partnership beginning with the 2015 licensing year. Over the previous three years, the cities have used the services of a private vendor to process animal licenses, but beginning January 1, 2015, City staff will be administering the WestPet Animal Control Program locally. Renewal notices and reminders to existing license holders in each city will be mailed shortly after the first of the year, while registration forms for new and unlicensed animals are

available at www.westpet.org. Residents can contact WestPet via e-mail at westpet@wdm.iowa.gov or call 273-0651 for more details.

As a reminder, all dogs and cats of at least six months of age living in these communities must be licensed. Renewals are accepted from January 1 to April 30 without penalty – late renewals are subject to a \$25.00 late fee. License applications must be accompanied by a copy of the animal's current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of spay/neutering if applicable.

2015 License Fees:

(includes processing)

- Altered Cat \$17
- Intact Cat \$24
- Altered Dog \$19
- Intact Dog \$29
- Discounts are available for micro chipped pets and service animals.



Frequently Asked Questions about Pet Licensing and the Benefits

Why do my animals have to be licensed?

The goal of the West Des Moines animal licensing program is two-fold. First, licensing helps prevent against rabies outbreaks by requiring a certificate of vaccination for all animals over the age of 6 months. Second, licensing your pet acts as a form of insurance and increases the chance that you will be reunited in the unfortunate event he or she is lost. When you license your pet, your contact information is on file with the City's Animal Control Officers and also with the Westcom Dispatch Center, allowing them to contact you if your pet is taken retrieved or to an animal care facility.

How are the licensing fees used?

Fees collected from pet licensing support the animal control program and are utilized to provide care for lost pets, including shelter and medical care, until they are reunited with their owners.

What are the consequences of not licensing my animal?

Consequences of not licensing a pet are personal in nature in that a pet without identification is less likely to be reunited with its owner and may ultimately be euthanized if a suitable home cannot be found. In many cases, pets without a license or microchip are sent to the animal shelter while pets with a license will be returned to their homes.

My dog/cat never leaves my property, why should I buy a license?

Animals are resourceful! Although many people believe that their pet will never leave their property, dogs have a way of getting out from a "secure" yard by digging, jumping over a fence, or exiting through an open gate. Natural disasters, aberrant weather, and fireworks also often cause animals to become anxious and flee their property. A license identifies you as the pet's owner and provides animal control officers with the necessary information to reunite you and your pet.

My pet has a microchip. Do I need to buy a license too?

Yes. In addition to the fact that licensing is often required by law, a microchip is invisible to the eye and can occasionally go undetected. A license is visible proof of ownership, which lets animal control officers and members of the public know that your pet has a family. It is highly recommended that all pets be micro-chipped and wear a valid license.



Drought Spells Water Shortages in California

Golden State Water Problems Hit Iowans in the Pocketbook

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

But what if you live in California where the lemon crop is down because measurable rainfall is almost non-existent? Suddenly, making lemonade may be an increasingly tall order ... and certainly a more expensive one.

As the undisputed leader in lemon production in the United States, California finds itself in a pervasive drought with 100 percent of the state classified as being in a moderate drought or worse. More disturbing, nearly 82 percent of California's 163,696 square miles is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought. The latter is the worst of the classifications, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, and since the beginning of 2014, exceptional drought went from 0 to more than 58 percent of California's land mass. By contrast, Iowa was 100 percent drought free by mid-September 2014.

A drought out west might not ring many alarm bells for people here in Central Iowa, where the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers are flowing strong, but perhaps it should. California contains the single largest economy in the nation by a substantial margin. If it was its own country, it would be the seventh largest economy in the world. Like it or not, in this increasingly interconnected world, California's problems quickly become problems for other states.

"It's easy to say, 'I don't live in California. Their drought isn't my problem,'" says Diana Wilson, general manager of West Des Moines Water Works. "The reality of today's

interconnectedness means that we cannot afford to be so cavalier about a drought five states away.

"Iowa farmers help feed the world, but California puts fruits and vegetables on our plates long after the farmers market season goes dormant," she notes.

Wilson understands the lack of sympathy and awareness of the western drought may stem from the fact that in 2014, Iowa experienced its fourth wettest summer on record. She quickly reminds us that it wasn't long ago—just 2012—when Central Iowa struggled with its own water shortage.

"Imagine if that drought had gone on for three years with no end in sight?" she asks. "California's water problem may not affect our taps, but it probably will affect our food bills."

For the past three years, California and other western states have seen annual rainfall amounts plummet. As a result, reservoirs are nearing historic lows and ground water sources are depleting. The water table is down 15 feet or more in California's most agricultural areas.

The dry conditions aren't exactly unprecedented, says Harry Hillaker, state climatologist for Iowa. "The late 1970s was the last time [California] encountered a similar drought, but there are some differences this time."

For example, this drought has lasted three years, the temperatures are hotter and there's about 15 million more people living in California, surging the demand for water.

Farmers, homeowners with lush green lawns and local municipalities are siphoning down the water table at a mind-boggling rate. So much so that Gov. Jerry Brown called for voluntary reductions in water use, hoping for a 20 percent cumulative decline in water usage.

The government's call for voluntary reduction fell significantly short of its goal of a 20-percent decline in water use, and now Californians face fines up to \$500 for watering lawns, landscaping and washing cars.

How do you spell relief? R-A-I-N

"We know from experience that water conservation only goes so far in drought. Precipitation is the only known cure," Wilson says.

Those in the know—the National Weather Service, the National Climate Data Center, California climatologists and the like—are talking about an El Nino this year, which may bring California some much needed rain. But even normal rain will leave California in the water deficit column.

According to its Department of Food and Agriculture, California produces almost half of all the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the U.S. It is the nation's leading producer of 79 staple foods including grapes, peaches, strawberries, lettuce and even beef.

So if this winter doesn't bring large quantities of rainfall to California and the other western states, the price of groceries might start to come at a higher price tag than you are accustomed. And that includes lemonade.

California's Water Shortage May Spike Desserts

- Traditionally, California's most valuable output is milk and dairy so the cost of an ice cream cone might soon be headed for an extra dip in your pocketbook.
- Strawberries are mostly grown in California, so your favorite dish involving shortcake is bound to soon see an increase.
- Pies containing cherries or apples are also in danger of cost escalation. California ranks 2nd and 4th respectively in production of those fruits.
- And if you're looking to stymie your sweet tooth, suck in your stomach and tighten your belt, you won't be paying any less either. California produces nearly 100% of the nation's almond supply, and it is the leading producer of multiple kinds of lettuce and avocados.

Winter in West Des Moines

With an estimated population of over 63,800, over 770 lane miles of streets, and the high level of expectation from the motoring public, the City takes a serious approach to the problems associated with snow and ice control.

The City's responsibility is to conduct winter maintenance activities expediently, efficiently, and safely.

Priority Snow Removal

1. All **arterial streets** - the major street network which must be kept open to provide a transportation system for police, fire, and rescue squad units.
2. All remaining **residential streets** including cul-de-sacs.
3. **Alleys** and **City parking lots**.

Snow Emergency Parking Ban

To accomplish the effective removal of snow, a Snow Emergency Parking Ban is implemented by the Public Works Department.

Vehicles must be removed from all City streets, alleys and city-owned parking areas when the Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in effect. Vehicles parked in these areas are subject to being towed and/or a \$50 ticket. The parking ban is effective from its proclamation through 5:00 p.m. the following day, unless it is extended by an additional proclamation due to the length of the storm or large volume of snowfall.

If you normally park in any of these areas, now is the perfect time to make a plan for when the Emergency Parking Ban is in place and parking is not allowed.

We don't want to tow your car when it snows! You can be proactive!

When snow is forecast, park your car off the street. If you'll be gone during the winter months, don't leave your car on the street.

My vehicle was towed during a Parking Ban. What do I do?

- Go to the Police Dept., 250 Mills Civic Pkwy. (open 24/7)
- Provide ID showing the vehicle is yours or you were the driver
- Ask for an impound release (no charge)
- Go to Roy's Towing, 155 S. 13th St., WDM
- Pay any fees due Roy's Towing (such as towing, storage) and pick up your vehicle.
- If a City ticket has been issued, that fee is due at City Hall, 4200 Mills Civic Pkwy. (open Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM)
- Be proactive in the future by keeping vehicles off the street during winter weather.

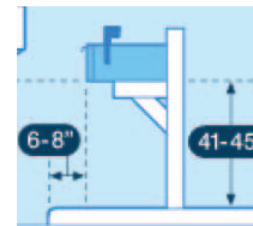


May be **ticketed** and/or **towed**
So the snowplow can clean the street!

If a prediction for snow or winter weather conditions exists, check the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov or call the Snow Hotline 273-0766 to see if there is a Parking Ban in place! Both are available 24/7.

Citizen Responsibilities

Snow can be beautiful, but it can also create hazards. When residents fail to clear sidewalks, falls and injuries may occur. Residents are required by ordinance to clear sidewalks (including those crossing alleys, crosswalks and driveways) within 24 hours of the end of a storm. Please place the snow on private property or adjacent to the right of way, not in the street. A helpful hint for residents - clear your sidewalk after the snowplows have completely finished plowing the street to the curb. If your sidewalk is icy, please apply sand or applicable deicer product to alleviate the hazard and reduce pedestrian injury.



Mailboxes

The City will plow the snow within the confines of curb line to curb line of a street. During extreme winter

events there may be times when City plows cannot physically place the snow onto the public right-of-way (commonly referred to as the "parking"). During these times the resident will be responsible for clearing the snow around their mailbox to assure delivery of mail. It is also the resident's responsibility for assuring that their mailbox is properly installed with the face of the door at least six (6") inches, but no more than eight (8") inches, behind the face of the curb. The post should be at least 24" away from the face of the curb, and it should be adequately constructed to withstand snow clearing efforts but meet "breakaway" criteria. In the Fall of the year, staff will conduct pre-season inspections of mailbox placement throughout the community. If a mailbox is found to be out of compliance, they will notify the resident with a door hanger so the proper corrections can be made before winter begins. Damage to mailboxes that have not been repaired or brought into compliance will not be eligible for a claim adjustment.

Frequently Asked Questions

About Snow Control

How do we know when the Snow Emergency Parking Ban is in affect?



1. **Snow Hotline** — Call 2730-SNO. (273-0766).
2. Check the home page of the WDM website: www.wdm.iowa.gov
3. While on the WDM home page, sign up for **E-UPDATES** to automatically receive notices of snow emergency parking bans.



4. "Like" the City of West Des Moines on **Facebook**
5. Follow the City of West Des Moines on **Twitter**

Can't the city remove the snow they put in my driveway or sidewalks?

Unfortunately, we cannot. When you consider the vast number of driveways and sidewalks throughout the City, it would be very expensive for the taxpayers of the community to provide this type of service. The Public Works Department has over 770 miles of public streets to plow during storm events and typically does this with approximately 14 operators per shift. While we try our best to minimize the amount of snow that is placed on these areas, unfortunately it cannot be avoided.

Who do I call to get the public to shovel their sidewalks?

City ordinance requires property owners to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of a storm. You may report unshoveled walks to Code Enforcement at 222-3304.

May I shovel/plow/blow the snow from my sidewalk or driveway into the street?

No. City ordinance prohibits this activity due to the hazardous conditions it can create in the street. Violators are subject to being fined.

I am elderly or disabled. Can the City help clean my sidewalk?

West Des Moines Human Services offers a Handyman program (one paid staff member) who can remove snow for income qualified households in the event of 2 inches of snow or more. This service is available to WDM Elderly (60+) and medically disabled households who are at or below 180% of federal poverty guidelines and prioritized according to the following criteria:

- #1 – low-income disabled households (medically verified), or
- #2 – low-income elderly;

Households must be pre-registered by Human Services with income and/or medical documentations.

Staff hours for the snow removal program are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

While we strive to provide quality service, it is important to note we cannot guarantee your sidewalk will be cleared within the 24 hours with one employee. The Human Services Department works with various volunteer individuals and groups in the community which assist us in snow removal when necessary. If available, staff will attempt to match them with those in need, but there is no guarantee.

For more information concerning this program please contact Tami Lage at WDM Human Services at 222-3664.

I/my group would like to volunteer to help an elderly or disabled person shovel their sidewalk. Whom should I contact?

The Human Services is always looking for volunteers to help clear snow in the winter and we appreciate the help. Please contact the Human Services Department at 222-3660.

When will my street be plowed?

The City has established priorities for the various classifications of streets. Major arterial streets that must be kept open to provide a transportation system for emergency vehicle units will be our highest priority. Depending on storm conditions, crews may have the opportunity to start plowing some residential streets before the storm ends. Ongoing weather conditions and the number of vehicles obstructing plow maneuverability in the roadways have a major impact on the effectiveness of the operation. Please keep in mind that crews may be coming down your street **more than once** to fully plow the snow to the curb. The City's goal is to have all paved streets completely plowed within 24 hours after the storm has ended.

For More Information Please Contact

The City of West Des Moines:

By phone:

Snow Hotline	2730-SNO (273-0766)
Public Works	222-3480
For Emergencies	222-3321
Human Services	222-3660
Sidewalk Violations	222-3304



Web, iPhone or Android:

To report concerns <http://yourgov.wdm-ia.com>



Facebook: "Like" the City of WDM



Twitter: Follow the City of WDM

**When removing
SNOW and ICE –
Don't put it in the street!!**

It's hazardous!

It's Illegal!

**It's costly to you when
you get fined!**

See City Code Sections 7-1-4 and 7-1-5

WDM City Code The following is the City's regulation on snow emergency parking bans which is being published in accordance with the City Code regulation:

6-6-7: SNOW REMOVAL:

No person shall park, abandon, or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or city owned off street parking area during any snow emergency proclaimed by the mayor, public works director, or their respective designees. A snow emergency parking ban shall continue from its proclamation through five o'clock (5:00) P.M. the following day. The mayor, public works director, or their respective designees may extend the duration of the parking ban if conditions require additional time to clear the snow and ice. Notice of an extension shall be posted in the same manner as a proclamation of snow emergency and shall contain the date and time the parking ban shall expire. Such a parking ban shall be of uniform application. The city shall publish information regarding the responsibilities of vehicle owners under this section in the fall and/or winter editions of the "WDM Magazine" distributed to city residents, as well as post such information on the city of West Des Moines website in the fall and/or winter of each year. When predictions or occurrences indicate the need, the mayor, public works director, or their respective designees, shall proclaim the snow emergency and direct the appropriate city employee to post said proclamation on the city of West Des Moines website and forward notice of the proclamation to at least two (2) radio and two (2) television stations that broadcast their signals into the city of West Des Moines. Such emergency may be extended or shortened as the emergency warrants or when conditions warrant. This section shall not be construed as suspending parking limitations or restrictions imposed by any other section of this title. In addition to enforcement of this section by police officers, code enforcement officials and public works employees have the authority to enforce the provisions of this section. The code enforcement officials and public works employees shall have the power to issue citation-complaints for violations of this section and impound vehicles found in violation of this section as provided in subsections 6-6-15A and G of this chapter. (Ord. 1844, 10-5-2009)

West Des Moines City Code is available 24/7 on the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov.



Tree Maintenance

Late fall is an ideal time to perform maintenance on trees and shrubs. Homeowners are responsible for maintenance of trees and shrubs which encroach on public right-of-way, whether they are planted on private property or in the right-of-way. To prevent potentially hazardous situations, the minimum vertical clearance of trees and shrubs must be eight

feet (8') between the surface of the sidewalk or pedestrian way and the lowest branch. The minimum vertical clearance of trees and shrubs shall be fourteen feet (14') between the surface of the street and the lowest branch. If you have questions regarding pruning or maintenance of trees and shrubs, please contact your local nursery or the Urban Forestry Supervisor at 222-3417.



PUBLIC WORKS MAINTAINING THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspection Unit

Keeping up your home can involve many aspects of maintenance. Imagine what it must be like to maintain a CITY! Just as in maintaining a home, decisions need to be made regarding priorities, time, and monies available.

There are some maintenance issues we don't really think about in our homes....until there is a problem, such as a sewer issue. A City, however, must make every effort to stay ahead of potential problems, whether it's sewers, streets, sidewalks, vehicles, equipment, or the many other aspects of maintaining a city.

One improvement the City of West Des Moines has made in maintaining our underground sewer systems is investing in a camera van, along with a CCTV unit. Sanitary

and storm sewer pipes are buried underground and are inaccessible due to their size and location. The camera with tilt, pan, and zoom features is mounted to a robotic transporter with lights that is capable of being submerged in water/sewage and can negotiate exceptionally rugged interior conditions of pipes.

Typically preparatory cleaning is performed on the sanitary sewer main prior to the internal inspection so a more thorough inspection can be completed. Then the CCTV inspection equipment traverses down the sanitary sewer main as part of the internal inspection process. The camera is operated remotely from a specially equipped van with an environmentally controlled mobile office with all of the necessary computer equipment.

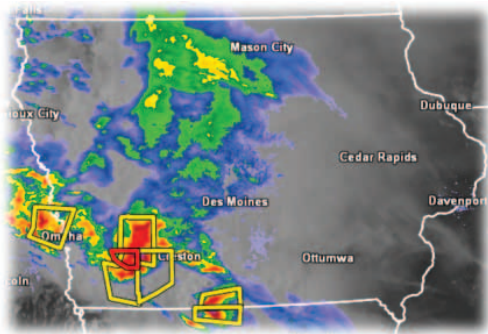
The CCTV equipment has capabilities to visually inspect pipe joint separations, pipe joint offsets, broken pipes, pipe blockages, debris in pipe, roots, sanitary sewer service taps, grease buildup, dips/sags in pipe, infiltration areas, illegal connections, liner damages, utilities bored through sanitary sewer, changes in pipe type or sizes, pipe deterioration, etc. All of this with no confined space entry required.

Issues identified by the camera inspection are recorded so that proper action may be taken to reduce the possibility of sewer pipe failure, sewer backups, and other problems affecting our City's residents and businesses.



STORM DAMAGE TO TREES

When Does The City Pick Up The Debris?



That's a good question, and one that many communities have struggled with. There is one huge factor that must be taken into account. Due to recent changes to FEMA guidelines, *free collection of vegetative debris from many types of storms could put the community at risk of **not** receiving eligible federal disaster funds for collection of debris following a declared event.*

The City of West Des Moines has approved a vegetative debris policy based on the guidelines recently adopted by the Polk County Emergency Management Commission. Many neighboring communities are in the process of approving similar policies, which will help provide consistency in our region for determinations made following a storm event.

A grid of areas that experience either Major or Destroyed category events will be developed for analysis of damage following a storm. A trained Damage Assessment Team will evaluate the storm debris and provide an assessment for all grids in West Des Moines affected by the storm.

The three categories of debris damage as determined by FEMA are:

- **Minor Damage** — No special collections will be implemented by the City. Residents will place vegetative debris at the curb using routine yard waste collection procedures (brush bundles, branches up to 10" dia., utilizing resident's MWA Compost-It bags, stickers and carts) for collection on their normal collection day. This applies only to those grids determined to have minor damage.
- **Major Damage** — Residents will place vegetative debris at the curb using routine yard waste collection procedures (brush bundles, branches up to 10" dia.) but will not be required to utilize MWA Compost-It labeled yard waste bags or stickers. This applies only to those grids determined to have major damage.
- **Destroyed** — Routine MWA curbside collection procedures (brush bundles, branches up to 10" dia.) will be utilized for smaller debris with no cost to the resident within the applicable grids determined to be destroyed. The City may make provisions for private property owners to utilize City-approved drop-off locations. This applies only to those grids determined to be destroyed.

To view the full West Des Moines' newly adopted Vegetative Debris Management Policy, visit the City website.

UPGRADING CITY FACILITIES FOR BETTER EFFICIENCY

Reducing Energy Costs And Saving Taxpayer Dollars

Back in 2009, City employees spearheaded the effort to apply for and received Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to accomplish several energy efficiency projects for the City. Half of the funding went directly to building improvements for City owned buildings and facilities.

Efforts were focused on 13 major buildings. Energy audits were performed, benchmarks were established to measure energy savings and efficiency upgrades were incorporated in any scheduled building project or equipment replacement.

One of the City's building projects that incorporated efficiency upgrades was the renovation of the Community Center, located at 217 5th Street. As part of the interior renovation for the ballroom, insulation was added to the walls, storm windows were added and new energy efficient lighting was installed. As part of the roof replacement for the same building, insulation was added and a new "cool roof" membrane was installed. New more efficient heating and cooling equipment was also installed.

With the upgrades in place, the building's electric use has dropped over 18 percent! Not only is the building more cost effective to operate, the renovations have the added advantage of providing a more comfortable space for the building users and significantly reduce the maintenance costs for the building.



Adding wall insulation



Setting mechanical equipment



New lighting and ductwork



New storm windows

End of Yard Waste Season and Christmas Tree Collection

Get out your rakes, garden gloves, yard waste bags and recruit some help, because the end of yard waste season is almost here. November 29 is the final day for curbside collection through the Compost It! program.

And then the holiday season is right around the corner! West Des Moines provides Christmas tree collection through Metro Waste Authority's Compost It! program. Trees are removed from the curb on your regular garbage days from December 29 through January 9, and they must have a Compost It! sticker attached. Stickers are sold at participating grocery and hardware stores for \$1.20. Please remove all decorations. Wreaths, both artificial and natural, go in your normal garbage due to the metal and plastic with which they are assembled.

This is also the last chance to have any remaining yard debris collected before spring. Be sure to use your Compost It! yard waste cart, Compost It! bags, or attach Compost It! stickers to generic bags to ensure your yard waste is picked up.

For more information about yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 515.244.0021.



Holiday Recycling

The holidays bring extra cooking, shopping, gift wrapping and entertaining. The season also brings additional waste – but do you know how much? Americans throw away 25 percent more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time of the year, and much of it can be reused or recycled. What to do with holiday items can be confusing, however.

- **Recycle** – Recycle catalogs, boxes, non-metallic greeting cards, and non-metallic wrapping paper in your Curb It! recycling cart. Paper gift bags can go in, but you must remove the handles. Plastic shopping bags should be recycled back at the store.
- **Reuse** – Reuse your ribbons, bows and garland. If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet! These items belong in the garbage if you do not use them again.
- **Trash** – Styrofoam, plastic packaging, aluminum foil and pans, disposable cups, plates and silverware DO belong in the garbage. Try not to purchase items that contain excess packaging or are for single use (paper plates, napkins, etc.), therefore eliminating the need to throw so much in the trash.

Other Holiday Items

There are many more holiday related things that are recyclable, but just not in your curbside recycling cart. Metro Waste Authority's recycling and disposal guide (<http://www.mwatoday.com>, then click on Recycling Guide) will direct you where to recycle items such as Christmas lights, computers, other electronics, and more!

For safe, smart disposal and recycling options, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 515.244.0021.

KEEP 'EM LOOSE

Bagged recyclables end up at the landfill.



Don't Bag 'Em!

Do you bag your recyclables before placing them in your curbside cart? If so, it's probably with the best of intentions, but putting recyclables in a plastic bag is actually a surefire way to get them sent to the landfill. Plastic bags, of any kind, ARE NOT recyclable in your recycling cart. The reason? Because bags get wrapped in the equipment at the recycling sorting facility, cause damage, and can even halt the processing line. When recycling facility employees spot a plastic bag — even if it's full of recyclables — it is pulled from the line and sent on to the landfill.

The Easy Solution: Keep recyclables loose in your cart.

If you are bagging your recyclables to prevent windblown litter, here are some alternatives:

- If possible, place heavier recyclables toward the top of the cart to weigh down loose papers
- Make sure your lid is completely closed
- If it's really windy, don't put your cart out the night before

For safe, smart disposal and recycling options, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 515.244.0021.



Ever Wonder What to do with Used Cooking Oil?

If you plan to fry a turkey, ham or other food item over the holidays, plan also to recycle the used cooking oil at Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off in Bondurant (just a half-mile north of I-80 at the Adventureland exit).

Accepted Oils
Canola, Corn, Vegetable & Peanut



NOT Accepted
Grease

Acceptance Guidelines

You CAN recycle canola, peanut and vegetable oil year-round. Grease IS NOT accepted. The collected oil is reused to support the local biodiesel industry.

Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Hours & Location

Tuesday to Friday: 1 to 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 8 a.m. to Noon
(first and third Saturdays of the month)

For safe, smart waste disposal and recycling options, visit www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 515.244.0021.

Protecting Your Home During The Holiday Season

December marks the beginning of the holiday season, which includes Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve. Decorating your home for holidays can be fun, but be safe. According to the NFPA, each year fires during the holiday season injure about 2,600 individuals and cause more \$930 million in damage. No matter how busy you are, take a little extra time to make sure that your holiday decorations don't become a household hazard.

Fireplaces

Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.

When building a fire, clear the area of decorations and flammable materials. Place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate. Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates build-up in your chimney. Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke. Never use flammable liquids to start a fire inside your home.

Leave glass doors open while burning a fire to ensure the fire receives enough air. Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Keep the mesh metal screen closed at all times to stop embers from getting out.

Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper or trash in a fireplace. It can produce dangerous sparks and a chemical build-up in the home that could cause an explosion.

Allow ashes to cool before disposing and place them in a metal container to avoid any potential fire hazards and store them at least three feet away from any combustible materials. Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

Christmas Trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant. If you are

buying a real Christmas tree, make sure it is freshly cut. The needles on the tree will be green and hard to pull back from the branches. The trunk will be sticky.

Don't put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep it watered at all times, and don't place it close to a heat vent, fireplace or other heat sources. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.

Holiday Lights and Decorations

Maintain your holiday lights by inspecting them each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Be careful not to overload electrical outlets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.

All decorations should be non-flammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Candles

If you do use candles, make sure they are in stable holders, and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never put lit candles on trees, and never leave the house with candles burning. Keep all candles out of reach from children and pets.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

R.A.D. SYSTEMS OF SELF DEFENSE

"To develop and enhance the options of self defense, so they may become viable considerations to the woman who is attacked"



The Rape Aggression Defense Systems of Self Defense (R.A.D.)

is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. This comprehensive course for women begins with a discussion on risk reduction strategies, date rape, use of weapons, while progressing onto the basics of hands-on defense training. The techniques taught are easy, effective, and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. We reinforce these techniques through practice and dynamic hands-on training.

RAD is for women ages 13 and up. The class is 3 hours a night for 4 nights (12 hours of training). The cost is \$25 and comes with a lifetime return policy. RAD classes are held periodically throughout the year at the West Des Moines Police Department. Classes are taught by RAD certified instructors, Amanda St George and Billy Taylor.

For more information on RAD, contact Officer Billy Taylor at 515-222-3328 or email: William.taylor@wdm.iowa.gov



WDM RESIDENT GUIDE

All City service requests can be directed to the Online Service Desk at

www.wdm.iowa.gov

EMERGENCY	911
Non-Emergency Dispatch	222-3321
ADA Coordinator	222-3603
TDD/TTY	1-800-413-4955
Aquatic Centers	273-0700
Ambulance Billing	273-0652
Animal Control	222-3364
250 Mills Civic Parkway	
Animal Licenses	SEE WestPet
Better Business Bureau	243-8137
Birth Certificates	SEE Vital Records
Building Safety/Inspections	222-3630
developmentsservices@wdm.iowa.gov	
Business License Info.	1-800-532-1216
Cable Television	
Mediacom	1-800-332-0245
Billing, Cust. Service, Connect/ Disconnect,	
2205 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines • mchsi.com	
Jordan Cemetery	222-3444
Sales and Maintenance	
Chamber of Commerce	225-6009
www.wdmchamber.org	
City Attorney	SEE Legal Department
City Clerk	222-3603
Business related licenses / voter registration	
application	
City Council	222-3610
City Hall Offices	222-3600
4200 Mills Civic Pkwy	
City Manager	222-3610
Claim for Damages	222-3601
Code Enforcement	222-3304
police@wdm.iowa.gov	
Community Center	222-3440
Community & Econ. Development	273-0770
ced@wdm.iowa.gov	
County Web Site Addresses	
• Dallas County www.co.dallas.ia.us	
• Polk County www.co.polk.ia.us	
• Madison County www.madisoncoia.us	
• Warren County www.co.warren.ia.us	
Death Certificates	SEE Vital Records
Development Services	
Building Division	222-3630
Engineering & Planning Divisions	222-3620
developmentsservices@wdm.iowa.gov	
Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART)	
Public Transportation	283-8100
dart@ridedart.com	

Des Moines Register	
Subscriptions	1-847-424-0225
Driver's License	
• Dallas County	993-6992
• Polk County	244-1052
• Madison County	462-1542
• Warren County	961-1144
Driveway Permits	222-3480
560 S. 16th St. • publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Economic Development	273-0770
ced@wdm.iowa.gov	
Election Office	
• Dallas County	993-6914
• Polk County	286-3247
• Madison County	462-3914
• Warren County	961-1020
Electrical Service	See UTILITIES
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 273-0768	
EMS Billing	8055 Mills Civic Parkway
CPR and Public Access Defibrillation Classes	
ems@wdm.iowa.gov	
Farmers Market (VJ Foundation) 222-3642	
Finance Department	222-3600
Fire Administration	222-3420
3421 Ashworth Road • fire@wdm.iowa.gov	
Gas Service	See UTILITIES
Hazardous Waste	
Regional Collection Center	967-5512
Holiday Pool	273-0700
Housing Rehabilitation Program 273-0770	
Human Resources	222-3616
Human Rights Commission	222-3675
Human Services	222-3660
318 5th St • humanservices@wdm.iowa.gov	
Senior & Disabled Transportation, Energy	
Assistance, Food & Clothing Pantry, Homeless	
Prevention	
Illegal Waste Disposal	725-0268
http://www.iowadnr.gov	
State Dept of Natural Resources Industrial or major	
hazardous waste and chemical spills.	
Minor/Household Spills	222-3321
Job Hotline (City of WDM)	222-3616
www.wdm.iowa.gov	
Library	222-3400
4000 Mills Civic Parkway • library@wdm.iowa.gov	
Legal Department	222-3523
4200 Mills Civic Parkway	
Marriage Licenses	SEE Vital Records

Mayor's Office	222-3610
Motor Vehicle License Plates/Registration	
• Dallas County	993-5812
• Polk County	286-3030
• Madison County	462-1542
• Warren County	961-1111
Nature Lodge	222-3424
Raccoon River Park 2500 Grand Ave.	
One Call Underground Utility Lines	
811 OR 1-800-292-8989	
Parks and Recreation	222-3444
parkrec@wdm.iowa.gov	
Parking Violations (non-moving) 222-3600	
Passports	1-877-487-2778
Planning & Zoning	222-3620
developmentsservices@wdm.iowa.gov	
Police Administration	222-3300
police@wdm.iowa.gov	
Police/Fire/EMS/Dispatch (Westcom)	
• Emergency	911
• Non-Emergency	222-3321
250 Mills Civic Parkway	
Post Office	255-6471
430 5th St. WDM 50265 • usps.com	
Property Tax	
• Dallas County	993-5808
• Polk County	286-3060
• Madison County	462-1542
• Warren County	961-1110
Public Transportation	See DART
Public Works	222-3480
publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Recycling - Curb IT!	
Waste Management	www.wm.com
Missed Pickup/Questions	265-5267
Recreation Programs	222-3444
Rental Housing Inspector	222-3630
developmentsservices@wdm.iowa.gov	
Senior Citizen Meals	274-0373
Sewer Stoppages/Repair	222-3480
publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Shelter Rentals (Parks & Rec)	222-3444
School Districts	
• Norwalk	
981-0676 • www.norwalk.k12.ia.us	
• Van Meter	
996-2221 • www.vmbulldogs.com	
• Waukee	
987-5161 • www.waukee.k12.ia.us	
• West Des Moines	
633-5000 • www.wdm.k12ia.us	
Sidewalk Permits	222-3480
560 S. 16th St. • publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Social Security Offices	800-772-1213
Street Light Outages	
MidAmerican Energy	1-888-427-5632

Street Repairs/Cleaning	222-3480
publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Taxes	see Property Tax
Tickets Moving Violations	
• Dallas County	993-5816
• Polk County	222-3772
• Madison County	462-1542
• Warren County	961-1032
Parking Violations (non-moving)	
Finance	222-3600
Traffic Signals/Street Signs	222-3480
publicworks@wdm.iowa.gov	
Trash Collection	265-7374
Waste Connections • www.wasteconnections.com	
Tree Planting Permits	222-3417
parkrec@wdm.iowa.gov	
Utilities Mid American Energy	
Gas & Electric	1-888-427-5632
EMERGENCY	1-800-595-5325
One Call Line Locator	1-800-292-8989
www.midamericanenergy.com	
Valley Junction Foundation	222-3642
Vehicle Registration	
.....see Motor Vehicle License Plates/Registration	
Vital Records	
• Dallas County	993-5804
• Polk County	286-3781
• Madison County	462-3771
• Warren County	961-1089
Voter Registration	
• Dallas County	993-6914
• Polk County	286-3080
• Madison County	462-3914
• Warren County	961-1020
Iowa Elections Division	281-8849
Water Treatment Plant	222-3465
1505 Railroad Ave.	
West Des Moines Water Works	222-3460
Water/Solid Waste, New Service, Service	
Changes/Maintenance	4200 Mills Civic Pky
www.wdmww.com • waterworks@wdmww.com	
Westcom	
• EMERGENCY	911
• Dispatch Non-Emergency	222- 3321
WestPet	855-434-7567
Animal Licenses	
Yard Waste - Compost IT!	
Waste Management	www.wm.com
General Info/Questions	222-3600
Missed Pickup	265-5267
Persons with disabilities are encouraged to	
participate in City activities. Those individuals	
seeking City services and in need of special	
accommodations should either contact the	
department sponsoring the event or the ADA	
Coordinator.	



WDM Public Library

Mission Statement: The WDM Public Library is a relevant and integral part of the community. The library enriches the lives of residents by providing convenient and timely access to information and ideas; by offering engaging activities and opportunities for personal and professional growth; by promoting a love of reading and learning; and by remaining responsive to the changing needs of its users.

WDM Library *Adult Programs*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All programs are free and require registration unless otherwise indicated. Registration dates are in brackets. You may register for most programs online at www.wdmlibrary.org.

WDM WRITER'S CLUB

2nd & 4th Sat @ 10 am

Informal meetings for accomplished or aspiring writers – share any form of writing and offer/ receive constructive criticism. 2nd Floor Library Conference Rm. 222-3413 • wdmwriters.org

CHECKMATES: CHESS AND BOARD GAME CLUB

Thu from 6:30-8 pm:

**Jan 22 [Jan 5], Feb 26 [Feb 2]
Mar 25 [Mar 2], Apr 23 [Mar 30]**

For adults and children. See p. 30 for description. Registration required. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

SCRAPBOOK & CARDMAKER CLUB

**Sat, 10 am-4 pm: Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7
Fri, 5pm-11pm: Apr 3**

Whether you're a scrapbooker or a cardmaker, bring a project and your own supplies. (No sales at the event.) We'll provide space, snacks and cutting tools. Library Community Rm. \$1 donation requested. Registration preferred. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

CLUB READ: ADULT BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tue @ 6 pm:

Jan 6 *Domestics Violets* by Mathew Norman
Feb 3 *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*
by Jan-Philipp Sendker
Mar 3 *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*
by Maggie O'Farrell

A few copies are available at the Information Desk or you may bring your own copy. Library 2nd Floor Classroom. Books provided by the WDM Library Friends Foundation. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

CLUB READ SOCIAL

Tue @ 6:30 pm: Apr 7

Make new friends! Discover new authors! We'll share what we've all been reading lately! Newcomers welcome. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Library Community Rm. Registration preferred. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

BEADING BASICS

Tue, Apr 21 at 6:30 pm

Learn to wire wrap as we make a simple pair of earrings. Note: Must be able to see well enough to thread a needle. Sponsored by the WDM Library Friends Foundation. 2nd Floor Classroom. Registration required. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

OPEN COMPUTER LAB & GADGET ZOO

See Our Website Calendar for Dates & Times

Keeping up with the latest technology can be tough, that's why we offer free one-on-one assistance with Internet, email, attachments, and more. If you're confused by eReaders and tablets, staff can explain the options, and show you how to borrow e-materials from the library! You'll also have a chance to play with the Kindle, Nook, iPad, and other tablets. Laptop lab and devices provided by the WDM Library Friends Foundation. Registration required. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

MODEL TRAINS

Sat, Jan 17,

9 am-5 pm

Sun, Jan 18,

2-4 pm

For adults and children. See p. 30 for description.



WDM Library *Adult Programs*

FRIENDS AUTHOR SERIES

Tue @ 6:30 pm:

Jan 27 Dave Price

Apr 28 Mary Brooks

Meet the authors and enjoy refreshments provided by the WDM Library Friends Foundation. Library Community room. No registration!

- Dave Price is the author of **Caucus Chaos** (nonfiction)
- Mary Brooks is the author of **Bampa's Bag** (children's)

HOLIDAY CARDMAKING

Fri @ 6:30 pm:

Jan 30 [11/15] Valentines

Mar 27 [1/31] Birthday

Make three holiday cards to share with family or friends. Sponsored by the WDM Library Friends Foundation. Registration required.

JERRY BARLOW: CELTIC GUITAR & STORYTELLING

Sun, Mar 8 @ 2 pm

Acclaimed Celtic fingerstyle guitarist will play traditional music from the British Isles and his own original Celtic-inspired compositions and share stories behind the music. Registration preferred.

WDM Library *Teen Programs*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Programs are for ages 12 & up unless otherwise indicated. All programs are free. Advance registration is required unless otherwise indicated. Sign up by phone, online, or at the Reference Desk. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thu, Dec 18 | 6:30-8 pm | Library Community Room

Just in time to celebrate Halloween Christmas! Make your own characters from Halloween Town and munch creepy snacks while we watch the classic movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Popcorn and drinks provided. Ages 12 & up. Registration begins Mon, Dec 1. 222-3403 • www.wdmlibrary.org



GROUP SERVICE PROJECTS (VOLUNTEERS)**Wed: Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1****3-5 pm | Library Classroom, 2nd Floor**

Are you looking for Silver Cord, Community Service, or volunteer hours? We could use your help! The Library offers monthly group service projects for students (age 14 & up). A variety of tasks will be performed to help out the library. No experience or training necessary! Group Service Projects are on the 1st Wednesday of each month, September – May. Space is limited. Registration required. To sign up or find out more, contact Courtney.

222-3412 • courtney.bench@wdm.iowa.gov

WDM LIBRARY'S TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)**Wed: Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8****3:30-5 pm | Library Classroom, 2nd Floor**

Would you like to make the Library a better place for teens? Then TAB is for you! The WDM Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is an exciting opportunity for area teens (grades 6-12) to take leadership roles in our community, have input in teen activities, help with programs and fundraising events, and help develop the library's collection of young adult materials. TAB meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, September – May. No registration – just stop by a meeting and see what it's all about! Questions? Contact Courtney.

222-3412 • courtney.bench@wdm.iowa.gov

TEEN CRAFT NIGHTS**Thu: Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 26****6-8 pm | Library Community Room**

Join us for an evening program full of crafting goodness! A variety of crafts will be featured with a different craft every month. Visit the events calendar on our website for more info on each program. Ages 12 & up. Sign up by phone, online or at the Reference Desk. Registration required. 222-3403 • www.wdmlibrary.org.

Jan Magazine Foot Stools/Tables**Feb Lyrical Relief Paintings****Mar Divergent Crafts****LICENSE TO DRIVE: DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION PROGRAM****Thu, Jan 29 | 6-7:30 pm | WDM City Hall Council Chambers**

Find out what teens and parents need to know about getting an Iowa driver's permit and license. This FREE program is presented by Drive Tek, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Street Survival, and the WDM Police Department. For teens and parents of soon-to-be drivers. Seating is limited.

Registration begins Mon, Dec 1.

222-3403 • www.wdmlibrary.org

ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY**Thu, Feb 12 | 6-8 pm | Library Community Room**

Love is in the air...try to not to breathe! Join our group of sullen emo love-haters to break stuff then make stuff, decorate and eat snarky cookies, and watch the great heartbreaking movie *Edward Scissorhands*. Popcorn and drinks also provided. Ages 12 & up. Registration begins Mon, Feb 2.

222-3403 • www.wdmlibrary.org

**BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH CHALLENGE****Fri, Mar 13 | 6-8 pm | Library Community Room**

Join our quest to defy superstition! We'll challenge you to "press your luck" by competing in feats that go against the rules. Would you

walk under a ladder or break a mirror? Could you open an umbrella indoors? Would you even come to a program on Friday the 13th? Door prizes and snacks provided. Ages 12 & up. Registration begins Mon, Mar 2.

222-3403 • www.wdmlibrary.org

Check the Library's website for more information on upcoming teen programs.

*Storytime Series***MOTHER GOOSE STORYTIME**

Join us for stories, rhymes, flannelboards, gentle tunes and puppets in the storyroom. This program is designed around early literacy skills for children 6 months old through 2 years with an adult.

Registration required.

Mon @ 9:30, 10 & 10:30 am:

Jan 12, 19 & 26 [Jan 5]	Mar 9, 16 & 23 [Mar 2]
Feb 9 & 23 [Feb 2]	Apr 6, 13 & 20 [Mar 30]
<i>(library closed Feb 16)</i>	

NIGHTY-NIGHT DROP-IN STORYTIME

Join Nate for stories, rhymes, and songs (same format as Family Storytime). All ages w/adult. No registration.

Mon @ 6:45pm:

Jan 12, 19 & 26 Feb 9 & 23	Mar 9, 16 & 23 Apr 6, 13 & 20
<i>(library closed Feb 16)</i>	

LAPSIT LAMBS

Using rhymes, stories, music, and puppetry, Amy will engage baby and caregiver in language-rich activities designed for pre-walking babies (ages 1-18mo w/adult. Library Storyroom. Registration required.

Tue @ 9:30 & 10:30 am:

Jan 13, 20 & 27 [Jan 5]	Mar 10, 17 & 24 [Mar 2]
Feb 10, 17 & 24 [Feb 2]	Apr 7, 14 & 21 [Mar 30]

All children's programs are free and most require advance registration, which begins at 9 am on the date in brackets. 222-3405 • wdmlibrary.org

DROP-IN OLIVER'S TALES

Join Betsy and Oliver the sheep dog for stories, flannelboards, movement rhymes, and music! Storyroom. (No craft at the drop-in program.) All ages. No registration.

Wed @ 9:30 am:

Jan 14, 21 & 28 Feb 18 & 25	Mar 11, 18 & 25 Apr 8, 15 & 22
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OLIVER'S TALES

Join Betsy and Oliver the sheep dog for stories, flannelboards, movement rhymes, music, and a craft! Storyroom. Ages 3-6. Registration required.

Wed @ 10:30 am & 1:30 pm:

Jan 14, 21 & 28 [Jan 5]	Mar 11, 18 & 25 [Mar 2]
Feb 18 & 25 [Feb 2]	Apr 8, 15 & 22 [Mar 30]

FAMILY STORYTIME

Join Nate for stories, songs, flannelboards, rhymes, and a craft. Community Room. Ages 2-6 w/adult. Registration required.

Thu @ 10:30 am:

Jan 15, 22 & 29 [Jan 5]	Mar 12, 19 & 26 [Mar 2]
Feb 19 & 26 [Feb 2]	Apr 9, 16 & 23 [Mar 30]

DROP-IN FAMILY STORYTIME

Picture books, action rhymes, flannelboards, puppets, and songs for the whole family! Community Room. All ages. No registration.

Fri @ 10:30 am:

Jan 16, 23, & 30 Feb 20 & 27	Mar 13, 20 & 27 Apr 10, 17 & 24
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Most programs require advance registration, which begins at 9am on the date in brackets. 222-3405 • wdmlibrary.org

TALES WITH TAILS

Thu @ 4 pm: Jan 8 [Jan 5] | Feb 5 [Feb 2] Mar 5 [Mar 2] | Apr 2 [Mar 30]

Strengthen your reading skills with a 4-legged friend! The West Des Moines Public Library invites you to read with a certified therapy dog and practice your skills as a reader. Ages 6-12. Registration required. Please choose one 15-minute time slot for each child.

LEGO CLUB

Wed @ 3:45pm: Jan 21 [Jan 5] Feb 18 [Feb 2] | Mar 25 [Mar 2] Apr 22 [Mar 30]

What CAN'T you build with Legos?! Put your creative skills to the test. We'll have a special challenge for you, if you think you're up to it. Community Room. Ages 5-12. Registration required.



KIDS CLUB READ

Thu @ 4:15 pm: Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 23 – Titles TBA

If you like to read and talk about books, this group is for you! Join us for discussion and activities related to each month's book. Ages 8-12. Sign up in the Children's Dept.

CHECKMATES

Thu from 6:30-8 pm:

Jan 22 [Jan 5] | Feb 26 [Feb 2]

Mar 25 [Mar 2] | Apr 23 [Mar 30]

For chess enthusiasts of all ages (children/adults) and skill levels. We'll provide chess sets and feature a different board game each month. Registration required. 222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org



description

days/dates/times/locations

ages

All children's programs are free and require registration unless otherwise indicated! You may register online at www.wdmlibrary.org, in person, or call us at 222-3405.

BEGINNINGS MUSIC

Join the Iowa Youth Chorus' Beginnings program for singing, movement and instrument exploration and learn how music benefits young children.

Thu, Jan 8 at 10am
Fri, Jan 9 at 10am
Fri, Jan 9 at 10:45am
registration required [Jan 5]

birth – 18mo
18mo – 3yrs
3 – 6

description

days/dates/times/locations

ages

All children's programs are free and require registration unless otherwise indicated! You may register online at www.wdmlibrary.org, in person, or call us at 222-3405.

VALENTINE CARD WORKSHOP

Celebrate the season by making some LOVE-ly valentines for your friends and family! EARLY REGISTRATION!

Wed, Feb 11 at 3:45pm
Library Community Room
registration required [Jan 5]

4-12 w/adult

VALENTINE PARTY

You'll LOVE the HEART-y stories, songs, flannelboards, and craft we'll share in honor of Valentine's Day.

Feb 11 & 12 at 10:30am [Feb 2]

2-6

DROP-IN VALENTINE PARTY

Same as above without the craft.

Wed, Feb 13 at 10:30am
No registration

all ages

BARNES & NOBLE VALENTINE CELEBRATION

Valentine's Puppet Show & Stories

Sat, Feb 14, 10:30, 11 & 11:30 am

Join us for an entertaining puppet show and story presented by the library's Teen Advisory Board. Be sure to pick up a special take-home craft to continue the fun later.

Support the WDM Library

Sat, Feb 14, 9 am – 10 pm

A percentage of all in-store purchases (University Ave) will be given back to the library! Just mention the WDM Public Library when you check out.

Support the WDM Library

Feb 10-14

Online purchases can be made 24/7. Pick up a flyer at the library or visit our events calendar online for more information.

www.wdmlibrary.org • www.bn.com/bookfairs

4550 University Ave, WDM



WDM Library *Children's Programs*

description

days/dates/times/locations

ages

All children's programs are free and require registration unless otherwise indicated! You may register online at www.wdmlibrary.org, in person, or call us at **222-3405.S**

MODEL TRAINS!

All aboard! Stop by the library to see the Central Iowa Railroad Club's working layout.

Sat, Jan 17, 9am-5pm
Sun, Jan 18, 2-4pm
Library Community Rm
No registration

adults &
children of all
ages

MAY BASKETS

Join us for a spring story and make May baskets to share with your friends. Please choose one session to attend.

Apr 29 & 30 at 10am
Library Community Rm
registration required [Mar 30]

2-6 w/adult

For more information pick up a calendar in the Kids' Department.

If You Enjoy Our Kids' Programs,
Please Join The Friends!

- During the 2013-14 Fiscal Year, the library offered 544 children's programs with 36,500 people attending. Friends memberships pay for many of the special children's programs throughout the year.
- Memberships provide incentives to more than 2500 children participating in the Summer Reading Club, which encourages young readers to keep learning when they are not in school.
- Your donation is tax deductible!

WDM Library Friends Foundation

4000 Mills Civic Pkwy, WDM, IA 50265 | 222-3407 | wdmlibrary.org

WDM Library services

All services are **free**
unless otherwise indicated.

Questions? Call **222.3400**

GET A LIBRARY CARD... IT'S FREE!

Present a valid ID with proof of current address. Residents of WDM, DSM, Ankeny, Clive, Urbandale, and Windsor Heights may apply. Cards are valid for three years (no renewal fee).

LIBRARY HOURS

(Labor – Memorial Day)

Mon-Thu: 9 am-9pm | Fri: 9 am-6 pm

Sat: 9 am-5 pm* | Sun: 2 pm-5 pm*

*SUMMER HOURS

Sat: 10 am-4 pm | Sun: Closed

Call or check our website for holiday hours.

222-3400 | wdmlibrary.org

ONLINE CATALOG... wdmlibrary.org

Access the library catalog 24/7 from the comfort of your home...just follow the link on our website. Reserve items that are checked out, or on the shelf!

RENEWALS/ ACCOUNT ACCESS BY PHONE

Use your library card number to access a list of titles checked out, including due dates; overdue items; titles on reserve with your position on the waiting list; and charges on your account. You may renew all of your items at once, or renew individual titles if you have the barcodes.

225-1576 or 225-1586
wdmlibrary.org



WE TAKE RESERVATIONS

If the item you want is checked out, use your library card to place a reserve or "hold" on it. Want to read a bestseller? We buy one copy for every six reserves. Holds can be placed by phone or online, and we'll call you when your item comes in. If we don't own the book you need, we can usually buy it, or borrow it from another library within a couple of weeks.

222-3400 | wdmlibrary.org

BOOK CLUB COLLECTION

The library has multiple copies of past Club Read titles available for local book clubs to borrow. Specific titles are listed on our website. Advance reservations required.

222-3413 [adult titles] • 222-3575 [children's titles] | wdmlibrary.org

MORE THAN BOOKS

Your library is more than a warehouse for books. You'll find popular magazines and newspapers; large print materials; puppets and puzzles; recorded books; new releases, classics, and nonfiction DVD's;

music CD's; and more. E-books are offered through the WILBOR library consortium. This works similarly to our OverDrive downloadable audiobooks collection. A WDM library card and a small software install are required. For details, look for the eBooks news item on our website and click on the WILBOR link. **222-3403** | wdmlibrary.org





WDM Library *services*

TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

Available for use in the library: photocopier, fax, interactive storybooks, word processing, free Internet access, wireless access, and a 20/20+TV enlarger for the visually impaired. Available for checkout: overhead projector, iPads. Hate long lines? Try the 3M SelfCheck System!

222-3400 • wdmlibrary.org

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Got a question? We can help! Try our electronic resources...EBSCO Host magazine index, Novelist, ProQuest, and more! Business/investment info includes S&P's and The Street publications, Value Line, Investor's Business Daily, and Morningstar Mutual Funds Reports. **222-3403**

LIBRARY BLOGS

From our Internet home page, click on KIDS, TEENS, or ADULTS (orange box, left side). BLOG is one of the choices you'll find in the green box (upper left). Discover great information on our programs, plus book lists, staff recommendations, reading and literacy tips, and more.

222-3405 • wdmlibrary.org

PUBLIC MEETING ROOMS

Available for public use at no charge: small rooms (8 people), Classroom (20), Community Room (60). Call for guidelines and scheduling information. **• 222-3400**

TEEN AREA

YA materials are located upstairs, along with comfy couches and study tables. Get book lists and recommendations. For info on programs and activities, drop in or check our website.

222-3412 • wdmlibrary.org

WE MAKE HOUSECALLS!

If you are a WDM resident, unable to come to the library for health reasons and interested in receiving regular monthly visits from a volunteer, give us a call.

222-3400

Check out our new website, with more integrated features and fresh content.

Visit us on the web at www.wdmlibrary.org

WDM LIBRARY FRIENDS FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Our community library is fortunate to have the support of the WDM Library Friends Foundation – a volunteer-based, non-profit organization.

- Friends Memberships fund special projects, like the Laptop Lab, and programs for all ages. Contributions mean more books, music, and movies in the collection, so YOU have a better selection.
- Your donations are tax deductible!

WDM Library Friends Foundation

4000 Mills Civic Pkwy, WDM, IA 50265

• 222-3407 • wdmlibrary.org

BE A VOLUNTEER

Make a difference! We need reliable volunteers, especially in our homebound delivery program (1-2 deliveries per month). Fill out an application at the Info Desk.

222-3400 • wdmlibrary.org

BOOK SALE AREA

Don't miss the Friends book sale area (just around the corner from the Info Desk) to find great bargains from 10¢ magazines to \$1 hardbacks – adult and children's titles. Proceeds benefit library programs and collections. **• 222-3400**

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Links to our Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest pages are located on our website home page (upper right corner). "Follow" us on Twitter @ WDMLibrary, WDMLibraryChild or WDMLibraryTeen to receive "tweets" (updates) on library news, programs, and events. "Like" or "Follow" us on Facebook. Visit our Pinterest page to see Activities for Kids, Book Club Picks, Books & Reading (quotes), Staff Picks, and more! Instructions on how to set up accounts are available at the Reference Desk.

222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org



MOBILE APP PUTS THE LIBRARY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

With our new library app, you can instantly tap into library resources from any mobile phone connected to the internet.

Browse the library catalog, hold or renew a book, check your account, ask a question, find events, and more. Search for "West Des Moines Library" on your phone app store and download. It's free!

222-3403 • wdmlibrary.org



See Library Activities pages for adult & children's programs at the WDM Library.

WDM Human Services

"The ♥ of the Community"

WDM Human Services has been helping community members since 1979. As a department within the City of West Des Moines, WDM Human Services is a non-profit agency that provides necessary assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in our service area. Basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation and emergency assistance are a few of the critical services provided by WDM Human Services. For more than three decades, we have provided support and assistance to community members during emergency and crisis situations to ensure their safety and well being and to improve or enhance their quality of life. WDM Human Services partners with members of the community to provide support and assistance. If you would like to help us meet our community need, please call 273-0633.

WE HAVE MOVED!

Our new address is:
**139 6th Street
West Des Moines, IA
50265**

TRANSPORTATION

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER Transportation is available for senior residents of West Des Moines, Clive (Polk County), Windsor Heights and Des Moines (Frisbee area). Along with a nutritious lunch, enjoy several fun daily activities.	Trans. Supervisor 222-3661 217 5th St. WDM Community Center	M – F 8am – 4pm Lunch served at 11:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior residents (60+) Reservations required at least 24 hours in advance 	donations encouraged
APPOINTMENTS Transportation is available for necessary medical appointments, recreational group trips and Human Services referral trips.	Trans. Supervisor 222-3661	M – F 8am – 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors (60+), disabled and low-income residents of WDM Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance. 	donations encouraged



WDM Human Services *programs*

Human Services Mission:

"To provide opportunities for citizens to improve and enhance their quality of life and sense of community through the programs and services available."

TRANSPORTATION

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
SENIOR DINNER CLUB Seniors (60+) have the opportunity to enjoy one another's company while they dine at one of our finest area restaurants.	Trans. Supervisor 222-3661	First Tuesday of each month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDM senior residents. Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance. 	Cost of your dinner Transportation FREE (donations encouraged)



CITIZENS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION Friendship Connection is a club for young adults with special needs.	WDM Human Services 222-3660	Thursdays 10am – 11:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young adults with special needs 	NONE
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------

Friendship Connection is offered every Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am through WDM Human Services. Participants socialize, play games, sing, enjoy refreshments and have fun! Organizations throughout the community also make special presentations on occasion. Volunteers are needed to assist with this program. To learn more, or to register as a participant, volunteer or presenter, please call 222-3660 or visit our website www.wdmhumanservices.com.



WDM Human Services *programs*

FOOD

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD PANTRY Emergency food and personal care items are available at WDM Human Services for households in need.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	M 8:30am - 3pm T 8:30am - 3pm W 8:30am - noon TH 8:30am - 3pm F 8:30am - noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Assistance only. Must provide ID for all household members and proof of address Must be WDM or Clive resident. 	NONE <i>Funding for this program is provided by USDA which is an equal opportunity employer.</i>
HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE Need help with the holidays? Programs are available for qualifying households.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadlines apply – call 222-3660 or visit our website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet income criteria of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Must be in our service area. 	NONE
BREAD DISTRIBUTION Donated bakery items are available weekdays for households in need.	Human Services Staff 222-3660	M – F 9am	NONE	NONE

WDM Human Services
Current Needs**Personal Pantry:**

Each month WDM Human Services assists approximately 300 low-income households with personal care products. We need your help to meet the needs in our community. Following is a list of items we need on an on-going basis:

- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Diapers (Sizes 3-6)
- Soap

Clothing Closet:

Our clothing closet is in need of new or gently used children's, teen, and adult clothing items for the cooler seasons. We also need towels, sheets, blankets and small household items. Clothing Closet donations are accepted Monday through Friday 8am – 4pm at 139 6th Street in West Des Moines. Donation receipts are available.

Partner with WDM Human Services to help our neighbors in need!

HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP) The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying households with their primary heating costs during the winter.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660 Call for an appointment.	M 8am – 3pm T 8am – 3pm W 8am – noon TH 8am – 3pm Sign-up by April 30, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-income households in Western Polk County Social security card & date of birth for all household members Copy of your most recent heating/electric bill 13 weeks of verifiable income from all sources for all household members 	NONE
Dallas County Residents receive assistance at the Dallas County Family Development Center, 2814 1st St., Perry, IA 50220 465-5185				
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE/HOMELESS PREVENTION Emergency Assistance is available to avoid housing evictions and utility disconnects to eligible households.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	M 8am – 3pm T 8am – 3pm W 8am – noon TH 8am – 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low income WDM residents. Residents must show eviction or disconnect notice to qualify. See above energy requirements. 	NONE
ASSISTANCE WITH GOVERNMENT FORMS Government forms are not always easy to fill out. WDM Human Services is here to help.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	M 8am – 3pm T 8am – 3pm W 8am – noon TH 8am – 3pm	Service area residents.	NONE

Assistance is available for the following forms: Iowa Rent Reimbursement, Property Tax Credit, Special Assessment, Iowa Mobile/Manufactured/Modular Home Owner Application for Reduced Tax Rate and hawk.i insurance. Bring household income and address verification.



WDM Human Services *programs*

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
YOUTH RECREATION ASSISTANCE Limited scholarships for recreational/educational activities, are available to eligible households.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	M 8am – 3pm T 8am – 3pm W 8am – noon TH 8am – 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of income • Proof of address • Documented proof of activity costs • Low income • WDM resident 	Varies depending on household income

HOUSING

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

An intensive housing and supportive services program that works with homeless families to identify and work to overcome barriers preventing them from providing stable or permanent housing for their families.

Housing Solutions Coordinator
222-3666
 M – F
 8am – 4pm
 Limited availability.



Eligible homeless participants will need to meet HUD homeless guidelines and income criteria.

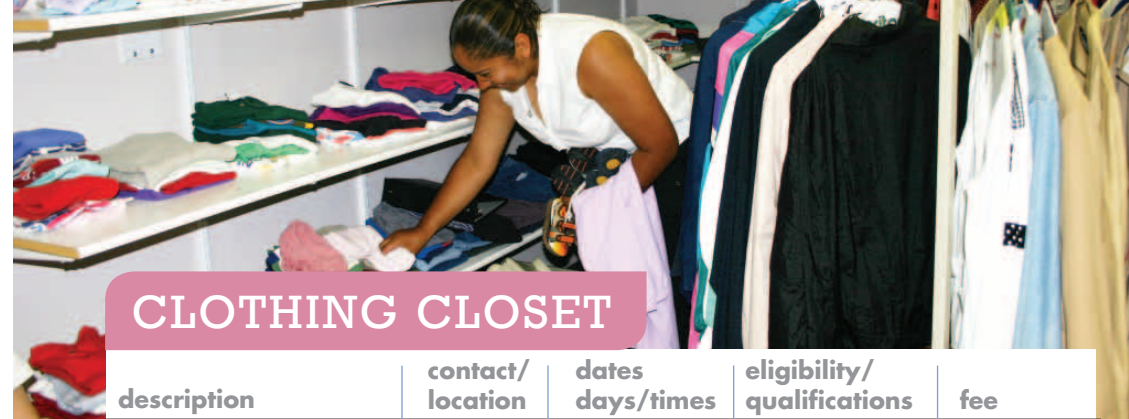
DONATE TODAY!

Go to www.wdmhumanservices.com and click on **"Donate Now"** to make a secure, tax-deductible contribution. It has never been easier to help a neighbor in need!

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

- Personal care items
- Diapers & wipes
- Fall/winter clothing (for all ages)
- Non-perishable food items
- Gift cards for gas, groceries & clothing
- Towels, sheets & blankets

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8am & 4pm at **139 6th Street** in WDM.



CLOTHING CLOSET

description	contact/ location	dates days/times	eligibility/ qualifications	fee
Gently used clothing articles are available to those in need. Small household items are also available on a limited basis.	Program Outreach Assistants 222-3660	M 8:30am - 3pm T 8:30am - 3pm W 8:30am - noon TH 8:30am - 3pm F 8:30am - noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of income • Proof of address • Service area resident • ID required 	NONE (donations encouraged)

This is a community supported program — donations of clothing and small household items are always needed.

LIFE SKILLS

COMPUTER CLASSES

are available on a limited basis to teach or enhance computer skills on a variety of levels.

Human Services Staff
222-3660

Mondays & Wednesdays
 3:30pm – 4:30pm

NONE



NONE (donations encouraged)

ELDERLY ASSISTANCE

HANDYMAN/CHORE

Services include lawn mowing, snow removal and minor home repairs for low-income elderly and disabled residents of WDM.

Program Outreach Assistants
222-3660

M – F
 8am – 4pm

- Income - eligible Seniors (age 60+) or income-eligible disabled residents of WDM.
- Registration required for new clients.

NONE (donations encouraged)



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

West Des Moines Human Services extends a heartfelt **THANKS** to all of the wonderful volunteers who donate their time and talents to help us continue to be the heart of the community. Volunteers are currently needed in the food pantry, clothing closet and for our Friendship Connection Program. If you have a passion for helping those in need, please contact **Melinda Hotovec** at **222-3663** or visit www.wdm.iowa.gov.



WDM Human Services "The ♥ of the Community"

Holiday Giving Opportunities...

Help Your Neighbors In Need

The holidays are approaching and you are invited to add one or more families to your holiday list by participating in one of West Des Moines Human Services' holiday assistance programs.

West Des Moines Human Services is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to low-income, elderly and disabled individuals in our service area. Many of our community members are surviving on very limited incomes and struggle to afford even the most basic of necessities. The holiday season can be particularly difficult for these individuals and families.

Please consider partnering with us to assist these struggling members of our community. Gifts can be delivered directly to a family, or you may deliver your gifts to West Des Moines Human Services and we will deliver to the family. Following are the opportunities available:

Thanksgiving

Sponsors are needed to provide grocery gift cards or food baskets.

Adopt-A-Family Program

Sponsors are matched with a family in need and asked to provide gifts for the children in the household. A "wish list" from the family will be provided. Sponsors may deliver the gifts directly to their "adopted" family.

Toyland

This program provides toys for children who are not sponsored through the Adopt-A-Family program.

This year, Toyland will take place on December 16, 17 and 18 at WDM Human Services. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are needed for this event.

Monetary Gifts and Gift Cards

Monetary donations and gift cards are also appreciated. Please designate holiday assistance.

If you know of other individuals or organizations who may wish to participate, please forward this information along. We have many families and children who need assistance and adopting a family is a wonderful tradition during the holidays. Please contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 with any questions.

If you are interested in providing assistance, please complete the **Holiday Sponsor Form** and send to:

Mindy Hotovec
West Des Moines Human Services
139 6th Street, P.O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov
515-222-3663



HOLIDAY SPONSOR FORM

Contact Name

Company Name (if applicable)

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

☐ **We will deliver directly to the family.**
(Note, food baskets must be delivered to the family)

☐ **We will deliver to WDM Human Services.**

Do you speak Spanish or have access to an interpreter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been a sponsor in the past? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I/We would like to participate in the following programs offered by WDM Human Services:

Please check the program(s) and fill in the requested information.

☐ **Food Card and/or Food Basket: For which holiday(s)?** _____

☐ **Option 1:** Purchase a **food card** from a local grocery provider for the holidays.
(\$25 increment(s))

I/We will provide a food card(s) for _____ family(s). Maximum size of family(s): _____

☐ **Option 2:** Provide a **food basket** for the holidays.
(Food baskets must be delivered directly to the family)

I/We will provide a food basket for _____ family(s). Maximum size of family(s): _____

☐ **Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program:**

Minimum Requirements: Sponsors are asked to **provide gifts for the children living in the household** consisting of at least two to three gifts per child. Of course, you may provide more if you desire. **(Optional:** Sponsors may also provide a food basket for the family consisting of the groceries needed for a holiday meal or a food card from a local grocery provider.)

I/We want to adopt _____ family(s). Maximum size of family(s): _____

Special Preferences: (ie, specific ages) _____

☐ **Toyland**

(Please deliver unwrapped toys to WDM Human Services by December 12th, 2014.)

I will provide approximately _____ toys.

☐ **Monetary Contribution or Gift Cards**

Please designate holiday assistance or your contribution may be used to assist families with the greatest need throughout the year.

Please make your check payable to: West Des Moines Human Services

Sponsor forms or donations should be sent to:

WDM Human Services • Attention: Mindy Hotovec
139 6th Street, P.O. Box 65320, West Des Moines, IA 50265
Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov • 222-3663

Sunday Supper In Our Town

RAISES OVER \$30,000

To help low-income, elderly and disabled residents

West Des Moines Human Services held its 5th annual "Sunday Supper In Our Town" fundraising event at Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar on September 28th, 2014. More than 125 guests attended the dinner benefiting low-income, elderly and disabled residents in the western suburbs. Proceeds benefit the programs of West Des Moines Human Services. The event was hosted by WDM Mayor Steve Gaer and wife Sally, City Manager Tom Hadden and wife Tina, Council member Russ Trimble and wife Alana, Human Services advisory Chair Tammy Cline and husband Vince, and Human Services Board Member Wendy Ogden and husband Dennis. It was a wonderful evening of giving back to the community.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS...

\$2,500 Giving Level

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.
Athene

\$1,500 Giving Level

R & R Realty Group
Foundation

\$1,250+ Giving Level

Steve & Sally Gaer
Russ & Alana Trimble

\$1,000 Giving Level

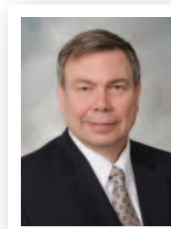
LaMarca & Landry, P.C.
Frank Berlin & Associates
Great Western Bank
West Bank
Shive-Hattery Inc.
Mowry Strategies/Tina Hadden
McGladrey LLP

3E Electrical Engineering
& Equipment Co.
West Des Moines Community
Enrichment Foundation
UnityPoint Health
Foth Infrastructure
& Environment, LLC

\$500 Giving Level

Bankers Trust
Career Search Associates
Valley Eye Clinic
Foster Group Inc.
HDR
Vista Real Estate
McClure Engineering Co
Wright Tree Service
Lincoln Savings Bank
Jamie Ward

Special thanks to JM Impressions



FROM The City Manager

Greetings and Happy Holidays! For public servants in Iowa, the coming of the holidays means it's time to work on budgets and the Capital Improvement Plan for the next fiscal year. It's the time of year for spreadsheets, work sessions and meetings to determine project priorities and the best place to invest our resources for 2015-2016. Additionally, the 2015-2016 fiscal year will include two very important opportunities for citizen engagement and participation: the Citizen Survey and the Special Census.

As I have shared before, I believe citizen input and engagement is an important part of thoughtful long-term planning. The bi-annual Citizen's Survey will be developed and disseminated the beginning of 2015 to several households throughout the City requesting feedback on the delivery of city services and other key areas. The survey represents an opportunity to give the City a "report card" and share valuable insights with the Mayor, Council, and City Staff to that we may continue successful initiatives and improve others. I urge all that receive the survey to consider taking the time to share your experience and insights; we will appreciate it!

Another survey to which you may be asked to respond will be the Special Census. The City, along with many other cities in the Des Moines area, will conduct a special census to capture the growth that has occurred since the 2010 census. Although development in the City slowed for a short time, there has been a vigorous recovery with record breaking building permit values in 2012 and 2013. We believe these values will be better

represented during the 2015 Special Census and the City will benefit from the additional road use tax funding from the State.

Budget and Capital Improvement Plan work sessions are public meetings and agendas will be posted ahead of time and held in City buildings for easy access. However, because extra meetings throughout the week can be difficult to attend, meeting summaries will be posted on both the City of West Des Moines' website (www.wdm.iowa.gov) and the City's Facebook accounts to shed light on the deliberations and discussions during these times. At any time during the process, residents with ideas or recommendations are welcome to attend a meeting or reach out to the City via email or a simple phone call to the City Manager's Office, 222-3610. We want all the input we can get to make our long term planning efforts thoughtful, inclusive and successful.

The last seven months serving as City Manager have flown by, but they have been filled with meaningful introductions and exciting projects. I am looking forward to the New Year and all the opportunities to come for this great City. Here's wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday season; Cheers to 2015!

Best,

Tom Hadden